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OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET  
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Dr. Ruth M. Davis  
Director, Center for Computer  
Sciences and Technology  
U. S. Department of Commerce  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Ruth:

Increasing concerns are being expressed about the security of data being processed by computer systems. These concerns are heightened by the extension of computer applications into classified or sensitive types of information, by the emergency of remote multiple access time sharing systems and by public and governmental dialogs on questions of privacy.

I believe that a basic responsibility for providing adequate security protection into computer systems falls upon the computer industry. On the other hand, I believe the Government and other users have been delinquent in recognizing the importance of security measures in their data processing systems and in pressing the industry to provide the hardware and software technology which is essential to effective control of data access.

Recent publicity has been given to the plans of IBM to launch a 5-year \$40 million project to attack this problem. The company has indicated its intention to seek user involvement in the project and to place its findings in the public domain. I believe this initiative - and others like it within the industry - should be encouraged.

My purpose in writing is to ask you to consider taking the lead in talking with IBM and exploring whether and how the Government can interact with the project on a mutually advantageous basis. Perhaps there are other industry projects that you know about on which similar approaches could be made. If you agree this is a useful thing to do

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and are willing to follow through, it would probably be best for us to discuss the results of your initial discussions with IBM or others before any final arrangements are completed.

Sincerely,

*Wally Haase*

Walter W. Haase, Chief  
Management Information and  
Computer Systems Division